

BUSINESS

Matters to consider in completing the Integrated Impact Assessment

Assessment of the impact of a policy on business starts with identifying the types of business, charities and voluntary sector organisations involved, and in each case the numbers likely to be involved. This is usually best done by informal consultation of groups that may be affected.

It is likely to be helpful to consider the impact to a notional or typical business in each category. In the case of a regulatory measure, this may include direct “red tape” costs such as of staff time or training in understanding the measure, inspection costs, licence fees and the like. Other items to consider may include wage costs arising from impact on the labour market, loss of revenue if the measure makes it more difficult to carry out a particular line of business and so on.

DETI have produced guidance for use by all NI Departments on how to complete a Regulatory Impact Assessment. This guidance entitled “[Better Policy Making & Regulatory Impact Assessment: A Guide for Northern Ireland](#)” was published in November 2004. A copy of the guide is also available on the NICS Intranet. Anyone with queries on the RIA process should contact Jo Elliott, DETI, Telephone 028 9052 9660.